



## Regional Service Council Minutes Region 5

**Meeting Date:** April 26, 2013

**Meeting Location:** Department of Child Services  
Tippecanoe County Office  
250 Main St., Ste 301  
Lafayette, IN

**Council Members Present:** Angela Smith Grossman, Regional Manager; Sarah Sailors, Director Carroll County DCS; Jennifer Johnson, Foster Care Specialist Supervisor; Paige Heath, FCM Supervisor, Tippecanoe County; Coleen Hamrick Tippecanoe County CASA; Penny Neal, Warren County FCM; and Laura Zimmerman, Director Benton County DCS. Judge Rader, Warren County joined telephonically.

**Council Members Absent:** Judge Graham, Tippecanoe County; Stacey Morgan, Clinton County FCM Supervisor; Debbie Brenneman, Foster Parent; Barbara Bedrick, Director White County DCS; Judge Henderson, Fountain County.

**Others In Attendance:** Tom Gilliam and dianna Huddleston, Wabash Valley Alliance; Hong Nguyen; Lois Logan-Beard; Sandy Lock, Director Clinton County DCS; Angie Guimond, Director Tippecanoe County DCS; Sonya Janssen-Luper, Director Fountain/Warren County DCS; Vivian Leuck, Child and Family Partners; Cassie Leak, Bauer Family Resources; Jon Bennett, Children's Bureau; Allen Rawlings, Lifeline and Karen Hustedt Warren, Bauer Family Resources.

### Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Called to Order at:** 9:00 am

#### **1. Comprehensive Home Based Service Standards, Hong**

This service standard is designed to address the needs of families that need intensive support. The standard uses evidence based models and combines various services into a "package" and is paid at a per diem rate. There are three models or combination of models that were evaluated.. Family Centered Treatment, Motivational Interviewing and Trauma Focused

Therapy. Each agency submitted a proposal and a team of reviewers evaluated each proposal and need for the region.

The proposals that were selected by the team are:

10001442	Lifeline Youth & Family Services Inc.	FAMILY CENTERED TREATMENT
10001465	Child & Family Partners Inc.	MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING
10001443	Lifeline Youth & Family Services Inc.	MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING
10001308	Bauer Family Resources Inc.	OTHER/EBP
10001326	George Junior Republic in Indiana	COMBINATION OTHER/EBP
10001444	Lifeline Youth & Family Services Inc.	COMBINATION
10001298	Child & Family Partners Inc.	TF CBT
10001441	Lifeline Youth & Family Services Inc.	TF CBT

These services don't replace existing home based services but rather, add to the array available to families in Region 5.

The Regional Service Council membership approved the selection unanimously. The Regional Services Coordinator will provide the information to state contracting and the final approvals will be posted to the DCS website.

## **2. Community Partners Proposals and selection updates**

- An email was sent to members that permitted them to view a video created in Region 7 regarding Drug exposed infants and education/awareness. This is used as a good example of some Community Partners opportunities that other regions have developed.
- A conference was recently held in Region 8 that Children's Bureau was part of. It provided education and exposure to child abuse and neglect and is another example of how prevention monies are being utilized.
- Children's Bureau representative, Jon Bennet offered that a DVD tool might be available for purchase from the Purple Crying curriculum. The DVD is for parents and traditionally is delivered by medical staff working with expectant or new parents. Distribution that would be

meaningful would have to be developed by Region 5 so that parents were given access at critical junctures. Suggestions to link to hospitals and clinics as well as Healthy Families might be options. Mr. Bennett indicated that he can send a copy of the materials to the Regional Manager and Local Office Directors to share.

- Currently Bauer has worked with the Local Office Directors in Carroll, Benton and Tippecanoe and proposes use of prevention dollars for the following:
  - Brazelton Touchpoints- a conference for community members. Bauer would like to sponsor this. There will be a two day training in June for \$50 per person for 48 individuals. They would also be able to pay for that. Community Partners would sponsor slots.
  - Provision of infant supplies to WIC (\$2000 per county)
  - \$3500 for purchase of books for 350 youth participating in IREAD tutor program in Delphi
  - \$6500 to Carroll County Community Center for 10 spots in summer programming (\$65/week for 10 weeks)
  - \$2000 to help Otterbein Library in sponsoring events at the library this summer that promotes reading, free and open to children and families

This is a total of \$20,400 for all counties.

The Community Partners proposals were submitted, reviewed and evaluated and a selection has been made for Region 5.

Bauer will serve Tippecanoe, Benton and Carroll  
Children's Bureau will serve Fountain/Warren, White and Clinton

The recommendation was unanimously approved by the RSC membership. A transition meeting between Wabash Valley Alliance and Children's Bureau is set for a mid-May date.

### **3. Regional Child Fatality Review**

Some of the membership has been following the process of the regional child fatality review. A copy of Senate Bill 125 is distributed to the membership. Among the many areas address in this engrossed bill is the change of this fatality review process to the prosecutors from the current, which is DCS. Each county prosecutor will select a regional, local or other model for their team and be responsible for selecting membership as outlined in this bill.

The regional fatality concept is valuable in that it has potential to create a stronger understanding of how child death can be preventable and also how development of prevention efforts could impact that. It is also a desired outcome to build team members that become more expert in their participation and that with volume of numbers, stronger lessons are gained.

The Department of Child Services has access to the National Center for death review database and the desired outcome is to still use this to gain better understanding, improve investigation through awareness of some details in death scenes no previously considered and to understand the themes and associations of child death to provide meaningful prevention. It is still DCS' desire to have a contributing role to the process. In the coming months it will be up to each prosecutor to come together and determine the best way to enact this review team.

### **4. Biennial Plan Updates**

The Biennial Plan is done every two years in the even years. The last one was started in 2011 and created the 2012 document. The current updates to these areas are as follows:

- Relative Support – there was lack of uniformity across the Region in how kids were placed and what resources they received and what support they received. We now have the Foster Care Specialists unit with Jennifer Johnson as supervisor. This unit also has a Relative Care Specialist and is supervised through the Regional Manager rather than the local office director with services regionally. Relatives have

many different problems from foster homes and this position and specialty will allow for a more powerful service.

- Fatherhood – Our goal was to improve the use of fatherhood support as a service standard and find more opportunities to engage fathers more effectively. This committee was charged with helping design internal and external promotion of this process. All of the main goals have been accomplished and their work is mostly complete. We hope to see improvement in our Quality Services Review in 2014.
- Concurrent work between the delinquency and child welfare systems is the committee that has been the most dynamic in its membership and has not really been able to get strong footing towards solutions.

## **5. Goal setting for the Fiscal Year**

The Regional Manager proposed a strategic meeting to determine prevention efforts for Region 5 that might occur in the late summer early fall. The process might consist of creating some standards and outcome measurements along with identifying needs in the region and working to design efforts that would be targeted. In July, our group will begin discussing some of the county needs that are most pressing to promoting healthy family systems and we will try to create consensus about how to help meet those needs.

## **6. Regional Service Council protocol and law**

Distribution of the protocol and law was done and briefly discussed. Some of the highlighted areas of the protocol were as follows;

- Memberships and proxy (for DCS, prosecutors and Judges). Prosecutors and Judges decide their own membership. We have been unsuccessful in getting a prosecutor on the council. This particular role position remains empty.
- Other county roles have changed due to promotions and turnovers but that part of the membership has been filled expeditiously.

- Telephonic participation is permitted and a relatively new part of the process. If members have interest in connecting to the meeting this way periodically, Brenda Green is the contact.
- Email voting is restricted. At least four members must be physically present to conduct a vote.
- Meetings may be monthly but at least quarterly quarterly

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am

Next meeting is May 24, 2013 @ 9:00 am

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Smith Grossman, MSW, LSW  
Regional Manager, Region 5